

**THE QUEEN OF SPAIN FRITILLARY (*ISSORIA LATHONIA* (L.))
(LEP.: NYMPHALIDAE) ON MADEIRA — RESIDENT OR
MIGRANT?**

T.G. SHREEVE & A.G. SMITH

School of Biological and Molecular Sciences, Oxford Polytechnic, Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP

THE QUEEN of Spain fritillary (*Issoria lathonia*) is widespread throughout the Palaearctic and resident in the Mediterranean region, but described as migratory in the western part of its range (Emmet & Heath, 1989: p. 224). It is also described as being resident in the Canaries (Higgins & Riley, 1973) and present on the island of Madeira. When Wollaston visited the Atlantic islands in the early to mid 19th century he described it as abundant throughout Madeira. More recently it has been infrequently recorded. The last known published date of its recording was December 1957, when it was found at Choupana (near Monte) in the south of the island, by Gardner & Classey (1960). Despite the number of visits that have been made to the island by entomologists of various nationalities there are no published records since, though G. Maul of the Municipal Museum of Funchal is aware of occasional sightings since 1957.

We therefore think it worth recording that on a recent visit to Madeira by ourselves two specimens were recorded at different locations. The first was a fresh male on a south-west facing slope approximately one km due north of Achada do Poiso on the ER208 road to Paul de Serra. This site was approximately 600 m. in elevation and the butterfly was flying in a small clearing in a eucalyptus grove between agricultural terracing and laurel and heather forest. The second, of unknown sex, was feeding at roadside flowers near Fonte da Pedra in an area of degraded laurel forest at a height of approximately 1000 m. on the north-western slopes of Paul de Serra south of Porto de Moniz. Both specimens were recorded on 10th September 1989. In both sites there were scattered clumps of violets (species unidentified) which we assume are the host plant of the species. Despite visiting much of the accessible parts of the island during the period 7 - 21st September whilst engaged in other work we found no other specimens of this butterfly.

Whilst we cannot definitely distinguish between this butterfly having maintained its presence on the island or whether the specimens we found were immigrants from the Canaries, North Africa or Iberia, we tentatively suggest that the former may be the case for two reasons. Firstly, the two specimens were in two locations on southern and north-western slopes some 12 km apart. If these two specimens represent part of a migration it is surprising that no other specimens were found on the island. Secondly, the sites where we recorded our specimens are those which appear to be less frequently visited by entomologists, particularly in the north-west which has only recently been made more easily accessible by a new road from Paul de Serra to the north-west tip of the island. This site was part of a very extensive

area of laurel forest where steep slopes make observations difficult. The butterfly may have maintained itself in this region.

We therefore hope that this part of the island will be visited by others and the presence of this butterfly reported.

References

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Hydraecia petasitis Doubl. (Lep.: Noctuidae) The Butterbur in Angus.

I took a female *H. petasitis* at light on the sandhills of Lunan Bay, Angus, on 23rd August 1988. Apart from being new to the County this species does not appear to have been previously reported north of the counties of Midlothian and Stirlingshire. The foodplant, *Petasites hybridus* flourishes in the nearby Lunan Water and further investigation is needed to ascertain whether or not this normally sedentary species is resident.— BERNARD SKINNER, 5 Rawlins Close, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8JS.

Purple Hairstreak in swimming pools.

I was interested in Mr Percival's note (*Ent. Rec.* 102: 4). I have also rescued Purple Hairstreaks from our pool here, although only two and those a few years ago. I have never seen the butterfly in the garden although they do occur locally. It may be that the pale blue colour is attractive to this butterfly but in our case, after 30 years, the blue colour of our pool is more of a memory.

Here, butterfly victims of the pool are in the minority, and usually Meadow Browns or Whites. Moths are more frequent after muggy nights, mainly the frailer geometrids (although two specimens of the Waved Black, *Parascotia fuliginosa* L. last year were a bit of a surprise). Noctuids seem to be able to get up enough steam, like a hydrofoil, to escape.

This reminds me of a different form of "suicidal" behaviour witnessed last spring, when burning up tarred timbers from a storm-blown barn. I was horrified to see a Speckled Wood ignore the smoke, and fly, about six feet from the ground above the hottest spot, where it perished.— H. MACKWORTH-PRAED, Tunbar, Headley, Epsom, Surrey.